



Financial Liability Investigation of Property Loss **(FLIPL)**



What is a FLIPL?

It's a Financial Liability Investigation of Property Loss – an investigation into why property was lost or damaged and who should be held responsible. They're used to account for lost or damaged property. They usually results in a recommendation and assessment of financial liability against one or more soldiers.

I've Been Told I'm Being Investigated or Recommended for Liability. What Should I Do?

First, if you've heard that you're being investigated but you haven't been informed of any recommended charges, accommodate the investigation as much as you can. If you have questions about whether you should make a statement, sign a statement of charges, or something like that, come talk to legal assistance.

Second, if you're told that your command is recommending that you be held financially responsible for the property loss (soldiers usually learn this from a memorandum signed by the investigating officer or by a battalion-level commander), come see legal assistance **immediately**. You have certain rights, but they're mostly time-dependent. Most importantly, you have the right to file a written response (a "rebuttal"), but you must do it within **seven (7) calendar days** of the date you receive the investigation of property loss packet (30 days if you receive an investigation of property loss in the mail from another country). If you can't get in touch with us within the time allowed, request an extension of time. We can help you write your rebuttal, or at least just explain to you how it works. Once your rebuttal is finished, you'll submit it back to the investigating officer or up the chain of command that recommended you for financial liability.

Third, if you're told that your command has assessed liability against you (you'll usually learn this from a memorandum signed by your brigade commander), you need to either pay the amount assessed or come see legal assistance for advice. You have the right to request reconsideration. That's a procedure similar to a rebuttal, but they're generally only successful if you can turn up new evidence or your command overlooked a serious mistake.

What Will Legal Assistance Do For Me?

First, we can explain to you your rights under the regulation that governs FLIPLs, Army Regulation 735-5. As discussed above, you have, among other things, the right to file a rebuttal to a recommendation of liability and the right to request reconsideration of an assessment of liability.

Second, we can talk to you about the likelihood that you will actually have to pay for the loss. AR 735-5 says that soldiers should only have to pay for lost property if the loss was their fault. But defining "fault" can be tricky, so it's best to discuss your situation with an attorney.

Third, we can help you write your rebuttal or your request for reconsideration. We do this best when you provide us with the whole FLIPL packet, so please bring it with you!

	<u>Camp Casey Legal</u> Maude Hall Rm. 235, 730-3660	
<i>This information paper is one of a series of informative handouts containing general information on topics that legal assistance attorneys frequently advise on. Information provided is general in nature and does not constitute legal advice. Consult an attorney for specific legal advice for your particular situation. This information paper is distributed to persons eligible for legal assistance under 10 USC 1044.</i>		